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Info

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PRIORITY

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INFO: CINCPAC

In response to question held over from yesterday
Department spokesman made following statement today:

As you know, American troops have been sent South
Viet-Nam recently with the mission of protecting key
~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ installations there. In establishing and
patrolling their defense perimeters they come into contact
with the Viet Cong and at times are fired upon. Our
troops, naturally, return the fire. It should come as no
surprise, therefore, that our troops engage in combat in
these and similar circumstances. Let me emphasize that
the Vietnamese Government forces are carrying the brunt of
combat operations. Those US forces assigned as advisers to
the Armed Forces of Viet-Nam remain in that capacity.

REVIEWED BY R. Flanagan DATE 10-2-86
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Dated by:

P: RMcCloskey:he 6/5/65

Telegraphic transmission and

classification approved by:

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Clearance:

DOD - Col. Bankson

FE/VN - Col. Cleland

P - Mr. Jorden

USIA - Mr. Tull

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